

# **2012 Voter's Guide For District 2 Neighborhoods**

Armatage  
East Harriet  
Fulton  
Kenny  
Cedar-Isles-Dean  
West Calhoun  
Linden Hills  
Lynnhurst  
Tangletown  
Windom

[See the NCEC District Map](#) (pdf)

## **For Neighborhood Representative Members on the City's Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission**

### **Candidate information and questionnaire responses**

Compiled by the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Voter's Guides are available online at the City's Web site:  
[http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/2012\\_Neighborhood\\_Elections](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/2012_Neighborhood_Elections)

The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our city. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-3737, TTY: 612-673-2157, at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

**English:** Attention. If you want help understanding this information, call 612-673-3129. **Spanish:** Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame al 612-673-2700 **Somali:** Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500 **Hmong:** Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab dawb txhais cov xov no, hu 612-673-2800

## **Voter's Guide District 2**

As part of the neighborhood election process to elect 5 neighborhood representatives on to the City's Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), applicants interested in serving were asked to respond to the following statements on their applications to be used in the Voter's Guide:

- ❖ How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?
- ❖ How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?
- ❖ Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.
- ❖ How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?
- ❖ How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?
- ❖ Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.
- ❖ Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

### **Candidates for District 2:**

(To quickly navigate to a candidate's information, hold Ctrl and left click on candidate's name)

[Denis Houle](#)

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The City-wide meeting to elect five neighborhood Commissioners will be held on Thursday, June 28, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm at Minnehaha Academy-North Campus:

### **City-Wide Election for Districts 2, 4, 5, 6 & 8**

Thursday, June 28, 2012

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Minnehaha Academy-North Campus

3100 West River Parkway

Minneapolis, MN 55406

([Click here for a MAP and DIRECTIONS](#))

The building is ADA accessible. If any special accommodations are needed, please contact 612-673-2243.

**All votes must be cast on June 28, 2012.**

If you have any questions about the elections for Districts 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 or the Voter's Guide, please feel free to call Cheyenne Erickson at (612) 673-2052 or Carrie Day Aspinwall at (612) 673-2243. You can also find more information on our website at [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/2012\\_Neighborhood\\_Elections](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/2012_Neighborhood_Elections).

**1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?**

I grew up in a small northern Minnesota mining town, attended a small private university and have always worked in small businesses, so always I have lived, studied and worked under the "bottom-top" government philosophy, where people determine for themselves their interests and needs and how best to address them. NRP existed to implement this idea, and I want to help NCEC do the same. And mostly I have worked in customer service, and that is – or should be – one of the top functions of any government branch, program or agency. My service experience will help me better help any district 2 constituent.

**2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?**

I began participating in Armatage approximately ten years ago, when the neighborhood was applying for NRP Phase 2 funds. I participated in several focus groups concerning money distribution, neighborhood priorities regarding children, safety, housing and business. Through that activity I saw how the neighborhood association functioned and the excellent people who staffed, and I decided to join. Since that time I have served as president for three years and vice president and treasurer for one year in each position. In addition I served as the ANA's delegate at each annual NRP election, and I participated with the ANA's NRP staff employee and others when presenting the board's Phase 2 plan to the NRP board.

In addition I have coached several Armatage youth sports though the years, including soccer, flag football, basketball and baseball.

**3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.**

As mentioned above, NRP brought me to neighborhood activism, and serving on the NCEC will continue my participation. The "bottom-top" philosophy begun with NRP cannot simply expire after twenty years, and I want to help NCEC continue that belief in its role within Minneapolis. In addition, after living in SW Minneapolis for sixteen years, I have encountered levels of citizen participation, education and concern that I hope I and others can use to both help and learn from all of Minneapolis. Finally, with my background and neighborhood experiences, I will bring a unique voice and perspective to NCEC that will help it continue NRP's philosophy while establishing its individual role and identity.

**4. If elected, how do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent?**

I would make my telephone number and email address available to all District 2 residents so they can contact me with their questions and concerns. I would also attend as many neighborhood meetings and festivals as possible to meet and communicate with District 2 residents. And I would send out District 2/NCEC information to the neighborhood boards whenever necessary, so they could

**5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?**

By under-represented groups I assume you mean racial groups such as African-American, Hispanic, etc., along with lower-income families of all races. In my years on the ANA board and also as a youth sports coach for Armatage sports I have met many people in these groups who want to either actively participate in neighborhood/city activities or at least

desire more information about them. In addition they provide a substantial presence at the Armatage Community Center, the Armatage Neighborhood Festival and at other locations and events. I intend to be a conspicuous presence at these events for them, continue my relationships with people I've met, and through them meet as many people from these groups as possible throughout my term.

**6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.**

Armatage Neighborhood Association

**7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Armatage Neighborhood Association board member